

HAMLET CLARK: PUBLICATIONS AND PROPOSED TAXA

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Abstract.—Hamlet Clark (1823–1867) was an English cleric who was interested in natural history. He became an authority on the Chrysomelidae, Dytiscidae, Gyrinidae, Haliplidae, and Noteridae (Coleoptera). From 1842 until 1867 he published 39 papers in which he described 71 genera and 709 species. This article presents a brief biographical sketch, a bibliography of his published works, and a list of proposed taxa.

Key Words: Clark, biography, bibliography, proposed taxa

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The information summarized below was taken from the obituaries of Clark (Anonymous 1867; Newman 1867a, b, c; and Clark's articles 14 and 35).

Hamlet Clark was born 30 March 1823 in Navenby, Lincolnshire, England. He was the eldest son of Rev. Henry Clark, Vicar of Harmston, Lincoln. He attended Beverly Grammar School and then studied with the Rev. Mr. Scott where he first became interested in natural history. Clark was a sick child and as a result he was unable to participate in many activities.

Clark attended Corpus Christi College at Cambridge University and was a student with the the Coleopterist T. Vernon Wollaston (Jesus College). Cambridge at this time did not offer much formal training in natural history, but Clark read much natural history and purchased many natural history specimens from residents in the Cambridge area.

Clark's early natural history interests were birds, spiders, and Lepidoptera. He devoted the last ten years of his life to the study of Coleoptera, especially water beetles and leaf beetles.

Clark traveled and collected throughout Great Britain. In the spring of 1856 he took

a two month cruise on John Edward Gray's (Lepidopterist and explorer from the British Museum) yacht visiting many localities in Spain and Algeria. In December of the same year he traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil also with Gray. While in Brazil he collected at Corcovado Mountain, Pijica (just north of Rio), Constancia, Presidencia (in the Organ Mountains), and Paraihiba.

Clark became a fellow of the Entomological Society of London in 1850. He served on the council in 1864–5 and as Vice President in 1864. Clark attended and participated in many Society meetings when he was in London. He became a fellow of the Linnean Society of London on 21 June 1860.

Clark was described as tall and handsome with a friendly outgoing personality. He served as curate of All Saints Parish in Northampton from 1848 until 1856, and he was conscientious in his ministerial duties. From 1856 to 1863 he lived in London. Due to poor health he left the ministry in 1863. Most of his private journals, field notes, and manuscript notes were destroyed "due to a most untoward accident" prior to his death. At the time of his death he was engaged in working on a catalog of the Hydradephaga for the British Museum. He

died 10 June 1867 at Rhyl, Wales, and is buried in the Rhyl Cemetery.

Clark's British Coleoptera and Lepidoptera were sold at auction in 1865 by J. C. Stevens. His Elateridae, Hydradephaga, and Phytophaga were sold to a Mr. Higgins and were deposited in The Natural History Museum, London, in 1867. Clark's material was accessioned as number 67-56 and most specimens from the collection should bear a label with this number.

ANALYSIS OF CLARK'S PROPOSED TAXA

One measure of the value of a taxonomist's work is how proposed taxa have been accepted by other scientists. In 39 publications Clark proposed 71 genus group names and 709 species group names. Of the 71 generic names, 17 (23.9%) are now synonyms and 6 (8.5%) are homonyms (Seeno and Wilcox 1982). The 23 names represent 32.4% of the names proposed.

The species group names were analyzed using the most recent catalogs on each group (Blackwelder 1946; Clavareau 1914; Heikertinger and Csiki 1939, 1940; Jolivet 1971; Monrós 1958, 1959; Weise 1916; Wilcox 1971, 1973; Zimmermann 1920). Of the 709 names proposed, 74 (10.4%) are synonyms and 7 (1%) are homonyms. These 81 names represent 11.4% of the taxa proposed.

Clark's rate of unacceptable names is very high, especially at the generic level. This level of invalid names is fairly normal for a worker who described species rather than doing revisionary work. Many of the genera containing Clark species group names have not been revised since his death, so the percentage of unacceptable names may rise.

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- 3a. 1845. *Ctenicerus sanguinicollis*. *Zoologist* (1)3: 1,016.
- 3b. 1845. *Omaseus aterrimus*. *Zoologist* (1)3: 1,016.
- 3c. 1845. *Mesosa nubia*. *Zoologist* (1)3: 1,016.
- 3d. 1845. Captures in the Cambridge fens. *Zoologist* (1)3: 1,016.
- 3d. 1845. Scarcity of certain Dytiscidae. *Zoologist* (1)3: 1,016.
4. 1845. Occurrence of the pine grosbeak near Rochdale. *Zoologist* (1)3: 1,025.
5. 1848. Notes on the Coleoptera of Northamptonshire. *Zoologist* (1)6: 2,045-2,046.
6. 1852. Notes on the Coleoptera of Whittlesea Mere. *Zoologist* (1)10: 3,704-3,707.
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TAXA PROPOSED BY CLARK

Taxa are listed alphabetically by genus under each higher taxonomic category; the numbers are the publication number followed by the page number.

Class Arachnida
Order Araneida
Salticidae

Salticus blackwalli 8: 329

Class Insecta
Order Coleoptera
Chrysomelidae
Alticinae

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Allochroma nigromarginatum 16: 190
Allochroma piceum 16: 184
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Allochroma sexmaculatum 16: 185
Allochroma sexsignatum 16: 193
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Cacoscelis clythraefromis 32: 407
Cacoscelis coeruleipennis 32: 407 [homonym, replaced by *coerulea* Csiki 1939]
Cacoscelis feldneri 32: 406
Cacoscelis fimbriata 32: 408
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